

March 13, 1995

LB 337

LR 5

a constitutional amendment but simply requires the moving around of some dates and the timing of the filing of certain petitions and perhaps giving us an ability to look at it, to have them filed and to have us look at it before our legislative session is over in any particular year. So I think we can do it that way, perhaps. And I will come back to you with the suggestion in that regard, if I can work it out in time, by Select File. And I hope, meantime, that you'll keep an open mind towards the proposition or the concept because I do believe that it could be very helpful to the people of the state. So, with that, Mr. Clerk, I'd withdraw the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The amendment is withdrawn. I raise the call. Mr. Clerk, next amendment.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Is there any further discussion on LB 337? Seeing none, Senator Schimek, do you wish to close?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I'd just like to remind you of what I think this bill will accomplish. It will accomplish, I think, a better education of the petition circulators so that they will know what the process is. I think that you will get better petition language because the language will be reviewed by the Revisor of Statutes. I think that there will be more opportunities for the public to become educated on the petition's purpose and the language of a petition. I think possibly there will be fewer errors during circulation. I think that if people know what the process is, the circulators know the process and they have standardized forms to use, that you're probably going to get more valid signatures. And I would like to refer you to one of the handouts today that shows the number of signatures in Lancaster County for the petition...term limits petition. And you will notice that almost 30 percent of them, in Lancaster County, were invalid. I think that we can do better than that. I think there will be less likelihood that potential fraud will go uninvestigated with this bill. I think you will get a statewide standardization on the verification of signatures. And one final thing that I guess I would like to mention in closing, and that is Senator Robak has asked me several times, and both on the LR CA (sic), 6CA and on this bill, both of them apply only to the initiative and referendum process; they don't apply to recall, they don't apply to a petition that a candidate